



Date: November 19, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Weekly Update Ending November 19, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending November 19, 2004 is provided for your information. Because next week is Thanksgiving, the subsequent City Report will be distributed on December 3. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Management

On November 12, the Budget Office closed fiscal year 2004 with an unedited ending General Fund balance of \$10.9 million. This fund balance, which was projected in the updated Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan, was achieved both through stronger revenue performance as well as through the efforts of all City employees to curtail spending and work more efficiently throughout the year.

City Manager

The City hosted individuals from *Inside City Hall*, an organization that invites community members to spend the day at City Hall meeting with Senior Management and Department Heads to learn what it takes to operate the City on a daily basis. Interested community members can call Melodi Nantes at 570-6861 for information.

Library Services

The Long Beach Public Library participated in a study to measure the impact of the "Statewide Public Library Services for People with Disabilities" grant program. The Information Center for People with Disabilities (ICPD) at the Main Library, which was opened in October 2003, was funded under this grant. According to the study, which included a pre- and post-opening survey, the Long Beach Public Library made "significant strides" during the year of program implementation in the areas of increased awareness and improved satisfaction with services. Eighteen new services for people with disabilities were added at the main Library this year.

Long Beach Energy

In September 2004, there was an 88.46% overall customer satisfaction rating for gas services provided by Long Beach Energy.

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Public Works Department, Fleet Services

Over the next three years, staff will be installing up to 30 Diesel Particulate Trap Filter Retrofit kits on the City's refuse vehicles to reduce the public's exposure to diesel exhaust particulate and to remain in compliance with air quality standards set by the State of California Air Resource Board. It's anticipated that four traps will be installed by the end of this year, followed by ten in 2005 and sixteen in 2006.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On **Tuesday, November 23**, Belmont Olympic Plaza Pool will host the final round of CIF-SS-Toyota 2004 Boys Water Polo Championships. An estimated attendance of 2,000 is anticipated.

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

The Redevelopment Bureau will collaborate with the Ninth District Council Office and the North PAC to clean up the North Atlantic Commercial Corridor on **November 20**. The activity will utilize volunteers from the Community Service Worker Program.

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

The Farmers' Market will officially open for business at its new location two blocks north on The Promenade and on the adjacent surface parking lot in CityPlace between 4th and 5th Streets at 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, December 3**. The new location is being promoted as a Regional Farmers' Market in an effort to draw Long Beach residents as well as patrons from surrounding cities with the lure of ample free parking (two hours with validation) and a large variety of fresh produce, fruits, nut and flowers from local Southern California farms. The farmers are the first to be relocated as plans move forward to develop The Promenade. The Craft Fair will temporarily remain at its current location on The Promenade between Ocean and Broadway.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

The Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) hosted a Bioterrorism Preparedness Workshop on November 11. Fifteen residents received information on the Department of Health and Human Services' bioterrorism preparedness, how the City will communicate with residents in case of an incident and what steps residents can take to be better prepared. LBTv filmed the workshop.

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,003 emergency calls for service: 126 calls for fires of which 19 involved structures. It also responded to 663 emergency medical calls, 456 requiring paramedics.

PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Police

As a result of the tragic murder that occurred last week on Andrews Drive in the Bixby Knolls area, the Police Department held a Community Awareness Forum for neighborhood residents on November 18 at Hughes Middle School. North Division Patrol Commander Frank McCoy and Detectives from the Homicide Detail discussed the incident. Police Department crime prevention specialists provided crime prevention and safety tips, and promoted Neighborhood Watch.

South Division Patrol Officers conducted a narcotics task force in response to recent violent and gang-related crimes. The operation was designed to provide a suppressive and proactive presence within high crime areas and target narcotic sales and parolees. The operation resulted in 12 felony and 6 misdemeanor arrests, 6 traffic citations, and 55 field interviews. The high police visibility and targeted enforcement was instrumental in impacting criminal activity in the area of south of Anaheim, between Cherry Avenue and the I-710 Freeway.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Financial Management, Budget Management Division

On November 9, staff provided a presentation on the Budget Office's functions at the North Long Beach Neighbors' Breakfast. Ongoing efforts to solve the City's structural deficit were also reviewed.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The junior golf community outreach program, Get A Grip on Golf, has completed this season's program. These two-hour instructional clinics were held in the afternoons at City parks. The last session was at Silverado Park with 21 boys and girls between the ages of eight and 16 participating. Successful participants are offered yearlong scholarships to join the Long Beach Junior Golf Association at Heartwell Golf Course.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

At Cesar E. Chavez Park, staff is analyzing the construction bids for the third phase of the water play area project and the contract should be awarded by late December or early January.

The plans for the expansion of the swimming pool area at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Silverado Park are complete. Construction bidding is expected to begin December 8.

Accessibility improvements at Whaley Park are continuing, with the interior restrooms nearing completion, and the playground and walkway improvements at 50 percent completion.

At MacArthur Park, the accessibility improvements have been completed and the construction plans for the Homeland Cultural Arts Building are complete. Planning Commission approval for the Homeland project is scheduled for December 2.

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NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Health and Human Services

On November 15, the Health and Human Services Department provided 400 flu shots for seniors and individuals with chronic medical conditions at the El Dorado Senior Center.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services

The fishing lakes in Area III of El Dorado East Regional Park were closed for cleaning and were stocked with fish in preparation of the 31st Annual Kids' Fishing Derby on November 20.

The Long Beach Senior Center Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held on November 12 at the Long Beach Senior Center. Volunteers who have worked at least 25 hours in 2003 and 2004 were honored. Special recognitions were given to four quarterly volunteers for 2003 and 2004. Over 170 participants enjoyed a catered meal by the Friendly Cup Café, great entertainment by the "*Young at Hearts*," a variety troupe, free give-a-ways, and certificates.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Blue Café Sunday Show and Shine, with an estimated attendance of 80, was held on November 14 on the Promenade between Broadway and 3rd St.

CBS Productions, with a cast and crew of 75, filmed CSI Miami on November 15 at Queensway Dr. under the bridge.

Canterbury Productions, with a cast and crew of 125, filmed "Joan of Arcadia" on November 16 at 2300 E. 4th St. and the Sunnyside Cemetery.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

The Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 3,451 service calls, including 1,089 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders, and 627 Turn Off orders. There were 1,603 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 132-meter maintenance and billing-related orders, as well as 152 customer emergency orders were completed.

Public Works Department, Fleet Services

On November 13 from 6:00 p.m. to midnight, the Towing Operations/Lien Sales Division assisted the Long Beach Police Department in the execution of a DUI Checkpoint at Pacific Coast Highway and Daisy Ave. The DUI Checkpoint resulted in a high volume of vehicles being towed.

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cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
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